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We dined tonight with the Villards at Le Chandelier, a picturesque eating joint in the charming old town.

Friday, May 15, 1959

Sunny. Gabardine suit weather. Went to 9:30 staff meeting.

Had for lunch at the Richmond grill - called the Gentilhomme and known for its excellent cuisine - Bill Stoneman (Chicago Daily News), Crosby Noyes (Washington Evening Star), Charlie Collingwood (Columbia Broadcasting), Don Cook (European edition N. Y. Herald Tribune), and E. Two and a half hours of satisfactory conversation. They all fear British "softness" will manifest itself some time during the conference.

Back to the office. Then a walk through 18th Century Geneva, and on to a reception at the Villards for the Herters. There were a couple of hundred guests.

Speeches at the Foreign Ministers' Conference ran their usual course today. Gromyko has to date been conciliatory though doctrinaire.

Saturday, May 16, 1959

Had a talk with Tommy Thompson at our headquarters this morning. He is a ~~very~~ skilled diplomat and charming man. I have long

felt, as does he, that the Soviets, desiring a Summit meeting, may well settle on nuclear test suspension ^{in the hope of its being a neutral evidence} ~~of sufficient progress~~ ^{of sufficient progress}

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~~Myself~~ to justify the later congregation of Chiefs of State. In this way, they could, if they wished, avoid reaching ~~any~~ definite conclusions about Berlin, a peace treaty and the rest. I think Tommy is disposed to go further than myself in considering concessions by the West, and perhaps over-estimates the importance attached by the Soviets to Western overt propaganda and subversive activities in Berlin. I wonder if he is right in thinking these might be traded (though whether we should do so is another question) for a substantial return. We both hope the subject of nuclear disarmament might be dealt with seriously at the Summit.

Fritz Molden lunched with us at the Hotel de la Paix. We had moved our belongings to it this morning from the Hotel Richemond, where we ~~had~~^{were} so cramped for space we could not even write letters. All the hotels in Geneva are packed to bursting. The Paix looks directly on the Lake, wherethe bustle of water traffic is always a welcome spectacle.

Fritz was abounding with ideas. He now publishes about twenty-eight papers in Austria. He says the Soviet Ambassador in Vienna has launched upon a campaign of entertaining almost without modern parallel. Vodka and caviar, breakfasts, lunches, dinners without number, and four regular receptions a week mark his program. I have just been reading ~~Marcel~~^{Marcel} Choise's biography of the Cardinal de Berma, whose twenty-five year tenure as French Ambassador to Rome

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